

*Urban and Rural Settlement in Anatolia and the Levant,
500–1000 CE: New Evidence from Archaeology*

Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Symposium, 21–24 April 2005
Symposiarchs: Clive Foss and Johannes Koder

THIS SYMPOSIUM was designed to provide a comprehensive survey of current knowledge of two crucial areas during a period of profound transformation: in Asia Minor, from late antiquity to the Middle Ages; in the Levant from Byzantium to Islam. The goal was to illuminate the history of these regions from a variety of viewpoints, to cross the traditional boundaries between history and archaeology and between Byzantine and Islamic studies.

The papers were devoted to all kinds of human settlement during this period, ranging from the large metropolitan cities of the late Roman Empire, to villages of the early Middle Ages, to fortresses and monasteries. Archaeology received particular attention, since it is the discipline that deals directly with human settlements. Therefore the results of recent excavations and surveys were emphasized, though without neglecting the evidence derived from the narrative or documentary record.

Questions of methodology were stressed, both in the introductory session and in the individual papers, to demonstrate what may be learned from various new techniques, and how these insights may be integrated with those derived from more traditional methods. The individual papers both reflected the advances that have been made in recent years and helped toward an understanding of major historical topics—the “fall” of Rome, the rise of Islam, and the survival of Byzantium. Selected papers from the symposium will be published in *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 61 (2007).

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Public lecture: *Byzantine Asia Minor and Syria: From Art-Historical Monuments*

to Archaeological Settlement

Cyril Mango (Exeter College, Oxford University)

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Introduction

Johannes Koder (University of Vienna)

From Conquest to Conquest: Agricultural Economy and Rural Settlement on the Eastern Frontiers

Michael Decker (University of South Florida)

The Fifth to Tenth Century CE in Southwest Anatolia: Transformation or Decline?

A Case Study: Sagalassos and Its Chora

Marc Waelkens (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Living in a Marginal Environment: Rural Habitat and Landscape in Southeastern Isauria

Günder Varinlioğlu (University of Pennsylvania and Dumbarton Oaks)

The Beginning of the End: The Crisis of the Sixth Century

Yizhar Hirschfeld (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Urbanism in Byzantine Asia Minor (500–1000 CE): A Retrospective

Eric Ivison (College of Staten Island-CUNY)

"Between Village and City": The "Town" in Oriens

Marlia Mundell Mango (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University)

The Infrastructure of Trade: Harbors in the Eastern Mediterranean, 500–1000 CE

R. Lindley Vann (University of Maryland)

Anatolian Castles in Context: New Approaches to Dark Ages Byzantium

Mark Whittow (St. Peter's College, Oxford University)

The Problem of Early Islamic Urban Foundations: Amsar Revisited

Donald Whitcomb (University of Chicago)

Monasteries as Settlements: An Interregional Comparison (ca. 500–800 CE)

Lukas Schachner (St. John's College, Oxford University)

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Trade and Industry in Byzantine Anatolia: The Evidence from Amorium

Christopher Lightfoot (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Economic Developments and the Nature of Settlement in the Towns and Countryside of the Levant, ca. 565–800 CE

Alan Walmsley (University of Copenhagen)

Concluding remarks

Clive Foss (Georgetown University)